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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1906.

When a man assumes a public trust
he should consider first of all the public interest.
—Thomas Jefferson.

State Control of Oysters.

Dr. Caswell Graves, associate professor of zoology in Johns Hopkins University, in a recent lecture on oyster culture, said that it would only require a few years' experiment to bring about methods and conditions under which the oyster bottom of Chesapeake Bay would easily produce annually at least ten times their natural yield.

We have no doubt on that score. The possibilities are enormous. Yet, according to the report of our staff correspondent, so far from taking steps to increase the yield of oysters in the Virginia portion of the bay, dredgers are taking the seed oysters by the boatload and hauling them off and selling them in some instances outside of the State.

In further discussing the question, Dr. Graves said:

"Generation after generation of the oystermen and fishermen have exercised a nomadic freedom to fish and oyster wherever and whenever they chose, until they have come to regard the Chesapeake oyster bottom as their own. They would as soon submit tamely to highway robbery as to consent to leasing the oyster-producing areas to individuals for their exclusive use. This social difficulty can only be overcome by education and experience."

When any man has enjoyed a privilege for a time, he is apt to consider it as a right, and it is not unnatural that oystermen on Chesapeake Bay, who have had the run of the waters all their lives, and whose fathers before them had it, should resent any effort on the part of the State to interfere with them in their operations. They regard the waters of Chesapeake Bay as "free soil," so to speak, and believe they have the natural and inalienable right to go in and take oysters in any manner they please, and that the State has no moral or legal right to restrain them. But the State has the right; nay, it is the bounden duty of the State to protect the seed oysters, to prevent depredations of every character that tend to deplete the natural stock and retard development. If the Chesapeake Bay were owned by a private corporation, it goes without saying that it would take all necessary precautions to prevent such depredations, that it would develop and not destroy, and finally that it would get an enormous revenue from the culture and sale of oysters.

The State owes it to the tax-payers of all sections to pursue a businesslike course in taking care of this great industry and make it yield a handsome revenue, but it is plain from the reports of our correspondents, that our so-called oyster navy is well nigh a farce, certainly that it is utterly inadequate to the demands of the situation, and that unless proper measures be adopted to protect her interests, not only will the oyster industry fail to grow, but the native stock will be in great part destroyed.

Will There Be a Strike?

At a conference to be held to-day between the coal operators and a committee of the United Mine Workers, it is probable that the question will be settled whether or not there will be a strike of the coal miners. The coal mine operators have come to a full understanding among themselves, it is announced, and have agreed as to the general policy which they will pursue at to-day's conference.

It is further announced that the operators will not accede in any way to the demands of the United Mine Workers and that the latter must either back down or strike.

Just what the United Mine Workers will demand is not definitely known. It is reported, however, that they will demand a recognition of the union and an eight-hour day, which means a higher rate of wages, and that they will make a strong fight for the change in the methods of the board of conciliation. One report says that the mine workers are dissatisfied with the present method of settling disputes and say there will always be friction until a better method of settling disputes is found. There is a growing belief that if the operators are liberal in granting concessions to the miners, the demand for the recognition of the union may not be pressed.

It is to be inferred also from a statement recently given out by President Patrick Dolan, of the Pittsburgh district, whose resignation was demanded because he voted with the operators at Indianapolis to maintain the present wage scale, that the United Mine Workers will demand that no district in the United States be permitted to make a settlement unless they all settle at one time. Mr. Dolan has pointed out the absurdity of that contention, and we do not believe that the United Mine Workers will stand for it.

As for the question of wages and length of hours we are not sufficiently informed to express an intelligent opinion, but there is this great underlying principle involved, in which the people of the United States, without respect to

class or section, are vitally interested. It is the principle asserted by the anthracite coal strike commission that "the industry must remain open to all seeking employment, regardless of their affiliation or otherwise with labor organizations." Every laborer who is willing to work in these mines upon terms offered by the operators should be permitted to do so whether or not he belongs to a labor organization. There should be no discrimination against the union man; neither should there be any discrimination against the non-union man. The field of labor must be open to all alike.

We sincerely hope that the questions in dispute between the mine owners and the mine workers will be settled amicably and that there will be no strike. The country is prosperous, workmen generally are profitably employed and a general strike of the coal miners would in more or less degree affect all branches of industry.

Our Navy.

In addressing the midshipmen of the graduating class of the Naval Academy on Monday last, Secretary Bonaparte said:

"Young men, you have chosen a military life, the full significance of which choice, if now felt by you, as I hope and believe it is, so far as you youth permits, is yet by no means recognized by all of your fellow-countrymen. The rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are declared on our part of the highest, merely human, authority known to Americans to be for most men 'inalienable'; yet you have alienated these rights. You have given your lives, your freedom of speech and action, your opportunities to seek happiness, so far as happiness depends on right with yourselves, into the hands of other men, chosen, not by you, but by your country's laws. For nine out of every ten young Americans, standing as you stand here, at the threshold of their life-work, 'success in life' means success in money making; the pursuit of happiness means the pursuit of wealth; your profession holds out no money prizes; unless enriched by mere accident, you must look forward to dying poor men and leaving your children little beyond a claim on the nation's gratitude."

Poor thanks! That speech was enough to make them shiver and enough to move them to tears. But is the case so bad as Mr. Bonaparte has pictured it? Our naval officers live in very comfortable quarters on shipboard, and when on land they do about as well as the rest of us and always have the entire into best society. An officer's uniform is his passport, and there is a popular impression that society smiles more benignly upon blue coats and brass buttons than upon the attire of a civilian.

But whether so or not, the naval officers and their sisters and their cousins and their aunts and their wives, when there are wives, form a select society of their own, a sort of charmed circle into which outsiders may enter only by special favor; and navy society does not seem to care whether outsiders enter or not, for it is sufficient unto itself, and mamma is quite satisfied, if her daughter selects a husband from some man "in the service." In fact, we have heard it whispered that the navy is our American aristocracy.

It is true that naval officers are not in the habit of heaping up riches, but the government takes pretty good care of them. These martyrs whom Secretary Bonaparte laid upon the altar will start with a salary (at sea), of \$1,500. When they get to be junior lieutenants they will receive \$1,500; lieutenants, \$1,800; lieutenant-commanders, \$2,500; commanders, \$3,000; captains, \$3,500; rear-admirals, second nine, \$5,500; rear-admirals, first nine, \$7,500. And if they live and behave themselves their promotion is sure, and by and by when they have gotten to the top they may retire at top pay.

Now, honestly, Mr. Secretary, that isn't so bad after all, is it?

Judge Nicol and Annexation.

It is announced that Judge Nicol will render his decision to-day on the annexation question. Whatever the decision may be, we go on record as heartily approving the manner in which His Honor has conducted the case. He has given the closest attention to the evidence and has been at pains, within the rules, to give the widest range to the testimony, that all material facts bearing on the case might be brought to light. He has shown the keenest personal interest, and by questions from the bench and by actual investigation of the suburban situation, has sought to inform himself, so that he might arrive at a righteous decision as between the needs of the city, the interests of the county and the vested rights of individuals, whose interests are involved.

Personally, he has endeared himself to members of the bar, court officers and witnesses by his polite consideration of all, and those who have had the pleasure of meeting him in the social circle are no less pleased than those who have met him in court with his charming personality. He is an honor to the bench and an ornament to society.

A number of Virginia papers, including the Richmond Times-Dispatch, are advocating the passage of a law to abolish local executions. A law is in force in New York by which all condemned felons are executed at Sing Sing prison. The idea, which has been suggested in this State on more than one occasion, is, in all probability, a good one. It is a further improvement over private executions, which were indeed a great step forward from the deplorable spectacle often presented when men were hanged in public—Charlotte Observer.

Undoubtedly, and the arguments in favor of private executions apply equally to the measure now pending in the Virginia Legislature to have all condemned persons executed in the State penitentiary. We hope it will pass.

Novelist Jack London has the knack of keeping in the public eye all right. When he is not getting married or divorced, you are likely to find him engaged in biffing the Constitution. His publishers can now safely cut down their advertising appropriation for 1906.

A special to the New York Times tells how John Abernathy, the now United States marshal of Oklahoma, while waiting to see the President, strolled into a room in the White House where several men were sitting around a table. Seeing only one vacant chair, Marshal Abernathy quietly dropped into it. A minute

later two powerful but friendly hands slipped him on the shoulder. Turning, he saw the smiling teeth of President Roosevelt. "John," said the President, "you're getting up in the world. You're occupying the President's chair at a Cabinet meeting."

The Rev. Dr. Robert Stuart MacArthur, of the Calvary Baptist Church, delivered an address at the Church of the Epiphany yesterday, strongly eulogistic of the negro. After an address advocating social equality, the higher education and the general uplifting of the negro, Dr. MacArthur remarked: "And some of the very best people of the South agree with me in my views. The Governor of Georgia agrees with me, and I have received letters from many other prominent Southerners."—New York Tribune.

With due respect to the Rev. Dr. Robert Stuart MacArthur, we do not believe that the Governor of Georgia agrees with him in advocating social equality.

A Japanese gentleman unintentionally sheds a whole lot of light on the way foot-ball strikes the Orient. "Judo," he says, "is much less brutal than foot-ball. In judo the aim is to kill your opponent or disable him for life." Bless our souls!

That the deadly sleeping-sickness is not altogether confined to tropical Africa, must be evident to all physicians who have considered the strange case of District Attorney Jerome.

If Mr. Roosevelt seems somewhat inconspicuous during these next few days, it must be borne in mind that he is being kept exceedingly busy uncrating wedding presents.

If Mr. Roosevelt should ever become a senator, it seems reasonably safe to conclude that he would be a sort of muscularized version of H. C. Lodge.

Africa has just made arrangements to begin exporting lobsters to Paris. This country has some months' start on Africa. Andrew H., please write.

Dr. Wiley says he is afraid to go to the table nowadays, because the butter is painted. Skidoo, doctor! Simply regard it as a landscape, and proceed.

In Washington just now it's rather a distinction not to be busy shopping for a present for Miss Alice Roosevelt.

Verbally considered, investigations and reforms are fast getting almost as prominent as graft.

The Pattersonian fireworks followed well established precedent in exhibiting a large and unmistakable stick.

Judge Hamilton drew \$1,347.32 from the New York Life. About \$2, we believe, has already been properly accounted for.

Of course, winter has a perfect right to try to compress itself into a single month if it wants to.

People appear to have stopped thinking of China as a mere breeding-ground for laundrymen.

None the less, Count Boni is not the first life-tenant to get jolted with a dispossessing notice.

Had Miss Alice Roosevelt been born five years later, what a lot of fun she would have missed!

The McCurdy, like all good insurance men, when they officially die, are going to Paris.

One of the earliest ice-making plants on this continent was probably Senator Fairbanks.

One robin may not make a spring, but suppose it happens to be a round robin?

Mr. Rockefeller is in the tall timber, possibly sawing wood.

Dominican politics are quoted firm.

A Tribute to Mr. Clowes.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Having served on the board of directors of the Eastern Hospital at Williamsburg (I think from 1883 to 1885), and knowing Mr. E. H. Clowes so well, he being a member of the board of the hospital, I naturally feel an interest in the question raised as to his fitness for membership on the board of directors for the said hospital, and while I have not been asked to do so, I feel it my duty to say the following:

Mr. Clowes may be said to have grown up in the service of the hospital, as he was connected with several administrative departments prior to the time I have mentioned. Our board appointed him, and his position he filled faithfully, and entirely to the satisfaction of all concerned with the administration of the hospital at that time.

He was always prompt, courteous and reliable, and possessed our full confidence.

Seeing considerably of him (as I went to Williamsburg every month) and noting the plain, open, candid, courteous and gentlemanly bearing of the young country boy, always of good nature, full of energy, with becoming ambition, forming full of good qualities, I advised him to leave Williamsburg and go out into the world to seek higher employment, and a better field.

Taking into consideration his knowledge and long connection with the affairs at the hospital, his personal character, intelligence and moral courage to do his full duty, I consider him a well equipped and fitted to perform the duties pertaining to membership on the board of directors of the Eastern Hospital, at Williamsburg, Va.

As to the last election, his and my position as to candidates were as wide apart as the poles. I advised him not to consider that sufficient to prevent my stating to the public the high esteem in which I hold Mr. E. H. Clowes.

CHAS. MILLIKEN.

Richmond, Va.

SO MANY WOMEN

have been benefited by taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters during the past 53 years that it has long since been recognized as the best woman's medicine before the public. If you suffer from ailments peculiar to your sex, get a bottle of

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS
at once. It always cures Vomiting, Sick Headache, Backache, Cramps, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Chills, Colds or La Grippe. A fair trial will convince you of its value.

A DIFFERENCE IN LUNGS.

In the Edinburgh University three human lungs lie side by side. One is of an Eskimo and is snow white. In life, this would be ruddy with rich blood. Another is that of a coal-miner and is black. The other is of a town dweller and is a dirty slate gray, as are the lungs of most city residents. That's why consumption thrives in cities.

One reason why Scott's Emulsion does so much to keep down consumption is because it helps to keep the lungs clean and supplies them with rich, red blood. It makes the lungs germ-resisting. If the body is run down and health is at a low ebb Scott's Emulsion will build it up quickly and permanently.

SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl Street New York.

Rhymes for To-Day.

Bridge at Midnight.
I have sat in at bridge till near midnight,
And now and again till past midnight.
And once till the rising dawn hid night
In beams of the glimmering sun.

But this seemed a regular bad night—
I'd never got sleepy before;
Yet I grew soporific that night,
Till I all but emitted a snore.

Perchance 'twas the sweet sugar toffee
We pleasantly ate between sets;
Or 'twas I'd omitted the coffee
I commonly quaff with my meals.

Ah! 'twas odd for 'twas only 9:20.
We brought that brief game to a close;
Yet I was probably notified by plenty—
I sat sank in a somnolent doze.

And I played like a man in a vision—
A somnolent vision of a man;
Till I heard a loud snore of derision,
And I suddenly woke with a start.

(Ah! my conscience can ne'er make that
Wrong suit).
For I read in my partner's set face
I had bungled her lead from a long suit
In atrociously trumping her ace.

Oh! I've sat in at bridge till near midnight,
And now and again till past midnight.
Till that painful and mortified child-night
I audaciously dozed on the game.

H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Consoling—Nervous Player (deprecatingly playing card): "I really don't know what to play. I'm afraid I've made a fool of myself." Partner (reassuringly): "That's all right. I don't see what else you could have done."—Punch.

Owing His Country.—"I suppose you feel that you owe your country something." "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, thoughtfully, "but that kind of a debt gets outlawed very soon."—Washington Star.

She Knew.—"Did that clairvoyant tell you anything true about yourself?" She certainly did. Before I'd been three minutes she told me somebody was trying to get my money." "Was there?" "Yes," said—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Wifely Incentive.—"He says his wife is largely responsible for his business success." "Well she has certainly made it absolutely necessary for him to earn more money."—New Yorker.

Drowning the Piano.—Mr. Skates: "Did the pianist play well at the concert last night?" Miss Prates: "I don't know. A woman that sat right back of me all about been to New York and knew all about Alice Roosevelt's troupeau."—Detroit Free Press.

A War Relic.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Having in my possession a (considerably battered) silver shield, about one inch long, on which is inscribed "George E. Colton, 27th Regt. N. Y. S. V.—that is, 'New York State Volunteers.' The shield was found by one of my daughters near Lynchburg, Va. College in the suburbs of Lynchburg, Va. I am sure that it is a relic of the Civil War, and I would like to have it placed in the hands of some one who would preserve it as a relic of the war."—MILTON UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville, Va.

The Lord's Prayer.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—A few days ago, a writer in one of our evening papers questioned the correctness of the translation of "lead us not into temptation," and was induced to use the phrase in several languages with the following result: English (revised version), Bring us not into temptation; French, Ne nous induis point en tentation; German, Führe uns nicht in Versuchung; Italian, Non indurre in tentazione; Spanish, No nos metas en tentacion; Latin, Ne nos induas in tentationem. The Latin verb means to lead, guide or induce; and the conclusion seems feasible that all these translations have different languages and mean the same thing in the true meaning. I should like to have the opinion of some Greek scholar on the matter.

JOHN W. ANDERSON.

Richmond, Va.

Physicians and Dentists.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The Powell bill, providing for the exemption of "Physicians and Surgeons" from the State license tax, has been very favorably received by the House Committee of the House. The present law imposes a tax on physicians, surgeons and dentists alike. The amendment exempts "physicians and surgeons" and leaves the tax on dentists. This means that while dentistry is an acknowledged branch of medicine, it is discriminated against in this bill and left to be the only branch of medicine to bear the burden of taxation on a par with the other branches of medicine.

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CONGER URGES NAVAL DISPLAY

Former Minister to China Apprehends Serious Trouble.

(By Associated Press.)
LOS ANGELES, CAL., February 14.—Edward H. Conger, for many years United States Minister to China, and who is staying at Pasadena for the winter, is quoted in an interview on the present anti-foreign agitation in China as follows:

"The United States should warn China against a repetition of the terrible riots of a few years ago.

"A show of warships should be made to impress upon the government of China that the troubles must not be repeated and will not be tolerated.

"I am satisfied that serious trouble will come, but do not expect that it will be directed, especially against the United States, but will be against the reigning Manchuria dynasty.

"The Manchurians are insignificant in numbers and the present uprising is for the purpose of establishing a new dynasty and not to oust foreigners," continued Mr. Conger. "The most violent disturbances will be in the southern provinces and will endanger all foreign interests.

"Americans within the zone of the rebellion are liable to be hurt before they can get out, and that is why the United States should let China know that it will not tolerate for an instant anything inimical to the interests of its citizens."

Anxious Americans.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, February 14.—The State Department is in receipt of many communications by every mail from friends of Americans in China, asking for the basis of the reports attributed to the Department to the effect that there is great danger of an anti-foreign uprising. The general purport of the Department's advice is that there has been great interference with American trade by the boycott, but that there is lack of tangible evidence of an uprising.

CLOWES MATTER IN SENATE TO-DAY

(Continued From First Page.)

air of mystery that, whatever the facts may be, is seriously damaging the business standing of the defendant. Shortly after the Senate met at noon, the matter came out formally. Mr. Fulton, of Warren, addressing the chair, declared that as a result of the committee hearings behind closed doors, unofficial fragments and garbled reports had been ten abroad, calculated to seriously injure the reputation of those connected with the investigation. Speaking apparently by the card, Mr. Fulton said he understood that nothing "scandalous" had come out of the hearing, and many seemed to suppose, and that it would unquestionably be better to let the plain facts speak for themselves. This declaration as giving something like an official statement of the result of the investigation up to this time, is important. Proceeding Mr. Fulton offered this resolution, which he asked immediate consideration:

Resolved, by the Senate of Virginia, That the committee appointed to investigate the fitness of E. H. Clowes to be a director of the Eastern State Hospital be, and it is hereby, directed to proceed with its further investigation in open session, and the seal of secrecy heretofore imposed be removed from the evidence already taken.

Representing the investigating committee, which, under the ban of secrecy, has been unable to explain any of the statements referring to its actions, Mr. Thomas asked that the resolution be adopted. Senator Anderson, of Richmond, also favorably commented on the resolution, and declared it to be a rather remarkable proposition for the Senate at this stage to order an open hearing of a matter first considered in executive session, and that should properly come before an executive session. Without committing himself either way, Mr. Machen, of Alexandria, pointed out that the board of directors of the Eastern State Hospital, declared it to be a rather remarkable proposition for the Senate at this stage to order an open hearing of a matter first considered in executive session, and that should properly come before an executive session. 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